



**Connecticut Farm Bureau Association**  
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Testimony in opposition to parts of SB 946 AN ACT CONCERNING REVENUE ITEMS TO IMPLEMENT THE GOVERNOR'S BUDGET.

Senator Fonfara, Representative Berger, Members of the Revenue, Finance, and Bonding Committee:

My name is Don Tuller, from Tulmeadow Farm in West Simsbury. I'm President of Connecticut Farm Bureau, and I'm here today to speak against the part of SB 946 that sweeps funding from the Community Investment Act, particularly the Agricultural Sustainability Act, and CT Department of Agriculture program funding.

Connecticut Agriculture is one of the bright spots in the Connecticut Economy. That being said, Connecticut Farmers are currently facing falling dairy prices, and the need to make investments in order to be more energy efficient, and to meet upcoming regulatory requirements thanks to The Food Safety Modernization Act. There is a waiting list of Farmers that would be willing to be considered for the Farmland Preservation Program.

The Community Investment Act funding has been vital to Connecticut Farmers, it has been stabilizing for many different types of Connecticut Farms, an unprecedented success. It's been doing just what it was supposed to do, helping stabilize the Connecticut Dairy Industry, staff the CT Farmland Preservation Program, so that more money is available for actual preservation, and helping other Connecticut Farmers prepare for future challenges through a variety of other programs. All of this economic activity strengthens many local economies across the state.

It's really critical that the funding for the Community Investment not get diverted for other purposes, and we really need your help to continue the good that it has been doing. I do hope to be thanking for your restoration of this funding, by amending SB 946 accordingly.

Regards:

Don Tuller President of Connecticut Farm Bureau